

**Reply under 37 CFR 1.116
Expedited Procedure
Technology Center 2100**

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously amended) A method of creating and searching a database of multi-lingual documents, the method comprising the steps of:

using a keyword dictionary to extract keywords;

translating the keywords into the languages supported by a bi-directional synonym listing;

creating a keyword listing in each supported language;

using the keywords in each supported language to create more than one inverted index of the documents including the keywords, one inverted index being in a first language and another inverted index being in a second language;

retrieving documents in a search mode comprising the steps of:

translating a search term in a query from the first language to the second language

using the same bi-directional synonym listing,

generating a translated query based on the translated search term,

submitting the query and the translated query to first and second different inverted indices,

submitting one of the query and the translated query to the other of the first and second inverted indices,

receiving first and second results of the search using the first and second inverted indices and

selecting one of the first and second results for use.

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2. (Original) A method including the steps of Claim 1 wherein the step of using the keywords to create an inverted index includes the step of using the Unicode system to manage multiple languages.

3. (Original) A method of searching a database including the steps of Claim 1 wherein the step of generating an inquiry includes identifying the language in which it is presented.

Claims 4-7 (Canceled)

8. (Previously amended) A system for searching a database based on an input search, the system comprising:

a synonym list for keywords which includes corresponding words in at least a first and a second language;

an inverted index for the database including keywords and synonyms for keywords based on the synonym list;

an indicator of the language associated with the input search along with a selection of whether documents are desired in the natural language or in all languages;

a search engine responsive to the natural language indication and the selection of documents, said search engine using the inverted index to determine a first set of results which include the documents which correspond to the input search in the input language and a second set of results which correspond to the documents which include documents which are not in the input language, wherein the search engine searches documents written in the first language for

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the presence of a keyword in the first language and the presence of a corresponding keyword in the second language.

9. (Original) A system of the type described in Claim 8 wherein the synonym list is a two-way synonym list which is usable in converting a search time from a first language to a second language and from a second language to a first language.

10. (Original) A searching system of the type described in Claim 8 wherein the converting of search terms uses the Unicode system for managing multiple languages.

Claims 11-15 (Canceled)